

I claim:

1. A method for determining an effect of a botulinum toxin upon a  
5 muscle, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) making a first impression of a skin surface in proximity to a muscle  
into or in the vicinity of which a botulinum toxin will be administered, the  
impression being made while the muscle is at a first maximum voluntary  
contraction;

10 (b) administering the botulinum toxin to the muscle;

(c) making a second impression of the skin surface in proximity to the  
muscle, the impression being made while the muscle is at a second  
maximum voluntary contraction;

(d) examining an impression by illuminating an impression with a  
15 single light source, and;

(e) determining an effect of a botulinum toxin upon the muscle.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step  
and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an  
20 impression a mean depth of a skin wrinkle.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step  
and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an  
impression a mean length of a skin wrinkle.

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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step  
and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an  
impression a total length of a skin wrinkle.

30 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step  
and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an  
impression a total number of skin wrinkles.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an impression a surface area of a skin wrinkle.

5        7. The method of claim 1, further comprising after the examining step and before the determining step, the step of obtaining from an impression a form factor skin characteristic.

8. the method of claim 1, wherein the determining step determines a  
10    paralytic effect of the botulinum toxin upon the muscle

9 A method for determining a paralytic effect of a botulinum toxin upon a muscle, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) making a first impression of a skin surface in proximity to a muscle  
15    into or in the vicinity of which a botulinum toxin will be administered, the first impression being made while the muscle is at a first maximum voluntary contraction;

(b) administering the botulinum toxin to the muscle;

(c) making a second impression of the skin surface in proximity to the  
20    muscle, the second impression being made while the muscle is at a second maximum voluntary contraction ;

(d) examining an impression by illuminating an impression with a single light source;

(e) obtaining from an impression mean depth, mean length, total  
25    length, number of wrinkles, surface area and form factor skin surface characteristics, and;

(f) determining a paralytic effect of a botulinum toxin upon the muscle.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the botulinum toxin is selected  
30    from the group consisting of botulinum toxin types A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the botulinum toxin is a botulinum toxin type A.

12. A method for determining an effect of a botulinum toxin upon a  
5 muscle, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) making a first impression of a skin surface in proximity to a muscle into or in the vicinity of which a botulinum toxin will be administered, the impression being made while the muscle is at a first maximum voluntary contraction;

10 (b) administering a botulinum toxin to the muscle;

(c) making a second impression of the skin surface in proximity to the muscle, the impression being made while the muscle is at a second maximum voluntary contraction;

(d) examining an impression;

15 (e) obtaining from an impression mean depth of a skin wrinkle, and;

(f) determining an effect of a botulinum toxin upon the muscle.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining step further comprises obtaining from an impression a mean length of a skin wrinkle.  
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14. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining step further comprises obtaining from an impression a total length of a skin wrinkle.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining step further  
25 comprises obtaining from an impression a total number of skin wrinkles.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining step further comprises obtaining from an impression a surface area of a skin wrinkle.

30 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining step further comprises obtaining from an impression a form factor skin surface characteristic.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the determining step determines a paralytic effect of the botulinum toxin upon the muscle

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the botulinum toxin is selected  
5 from the group consisting of botulinum toxin types A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the botulinum toxin is a botulinum toxin type A.

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21. A method for determining an effect of a botulinum toxin upon a muscle, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) making a first impression of a skin surface in proximity to a muscle into or in the vicinity of which a botulinum toxin will be administered, the  
15 impression being made while the muscle is at a first maximum voluntary contraction;

(b) administering the botulinum toxin to the muscle;

(c) making a second impression of the skin surface in proximity to the muscle, the impression being made while the muscle is at a second  
20 maximum voluntary contraction;

(d) examining an impression;

(e) obtaining from an impression mean skin wrinkle depth, mean skin wrinkle length, total skin wrinkle length, total number of skin wrinkles, surface area of a skin wrinkle and form factor skin surface  
25 characteristics, and;

(f) determining a paralytic effect of a botulinum toxin upon the muscle.